

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

October 22, 2014

Connecticut State Department Of Education

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SPECIAL POPULATION NEWS

National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Pilot 2 Test Participation

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has registered 268 students from schools across the state to participate in the NCSC Pilot 2 which will be conducted from October 20 through November 14, 2014. Currently over 120 special education teachers are accessing the online test platform to train on the administration of the Pilot items and the testing platform. This pilot test will inform the development of the operational test which will be administered to eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 3 - 8 and 11 this spring between March 30 and May 15, 2015. The 2015 operational test in Connecticut, also referred to as the Connecticut Alternate Assessment or CTAA has replaced the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist for English language arts/literacy and mathematics in Grades 3 - 8 and 11.

Training Opportunities and Resources for Educators

Teachers who will be administering the CTAA this spring are required to participate in [2014 - 15 CSDE Required Training for Connecticut Alternate Assessments](#). As of today, over 300 teachers have accessed the online course and over 100 teachers have participated in a live CTAA training. Either training must be completed prior to March 1, 2015, to be eligible to administer the CTAA or CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist next spring.

Also, available as both an online course or as live training is [The 2014 - 15 CSDE Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility & Accommodations Training](#). This training will assist administrators and all teachers working with general education students, students with disabilities, and students who are English learners in understanding what accessibility options are available on the Smarter Balanced assessments.

SMARTER BALANCED NEWS

Smarter Balanced Digital Library

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources contributed by educators for educators. Currently there are more than 2,300 resources aligned with the intent of the Common Core State Standards and will help educators implement the formative assessment process to improve teaching and learning.

The Digital Library also includes multimedia interactive modules. Log into the Digital Library to view an Assessment Literacy Module called "[Introduction to the Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile](#)." In this module educators will learn how Smarter Balanced generates results that are a fair and accurate estimate of each student's achievement. The module offers an overview of the Smarter Balanced Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines, the Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile (ISAAP) Process, and the ISAAP Tool. Smarter Balanced suggests a process and tool by which each student's need(s) can be matched with appropriate Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and/or Accommodations. States, districts, or schools can use the ISAAP if they feel it is helpful. This module also includes three orientations to familiarize educators with the Smarter Balanced Assessment System, the assessment literacy modules of the Digital Library, and the Formative Assessment Process. To learn more about [supports for under-represented students](#), visit the Smarter Balanced Web site.

New Mathematics Resources

Two resources were recently made available related to the Smarter Balanced Mathematics assessment. These are:

- [Smarter Balanced Scoring Guide for Selected Short-Text Mathematics Items](#)
- [Smarter Balanced Mathematics General Rubrics](#)



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reminder

Assessment Suite Workshops

The CSDE, in conjunction with the RESC Alliance is offering a series of workshops to further familiarize educators with the Smarter Balanced Assessment System. Titles of the first two workshops are: *Using the Digital Library to Support Teaching & Learning* and *Connecting the Claims to Classroom Instruction*. To register for these opportunities to learn about the Smarter Balanced Assessment System, visit http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=1955.

reminder

2014 – 15 Assessment Guidelines

[Assessment Guidelines 2014 - 15 Edition](#) is available to download from the CSDE Web site. This document includes revisions through July 2014 and is intended to provide guidance for Connecticut school district personnel who must make decisions about testing special student populations on the Smarter Balanced assessments, Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Science, Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science, CMT Skills Checklist Science, CAPT Skills Checklist Science, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments.

reminder

New Process to Create Digital Library Users

To create new Smarter Balanced Digital Library accounts, prepare an Excel spreadsheet that contains the First Name, Last Name, and E-mail Address for each new user (see sample spreadsheet below). E-mail addresses must be professional (district/school) e-mail addresses. There is no limit to the number of users allowed access within a district or school.

Sample Spreadsheet

	A	B	C
1	First Name	Last Name	E-mail Address
2			

The completed Excel spreadsheet should be sent to Joe Di Garbo (Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov) only **by the District Test Coordinator**. Once the spreadsheet is uploaded, each listed educator will receive an e-mail with access information.

reminder

Updating the Measurement Incorporated Web Portal

To ensure that information regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the CMT/CAPT Science Test (including Skills Checklist), and Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) is sent to the appropriate district staff member(s), please verify that the District Test Coordinator (DTC) and Second Contact information is accurate in the District Contact Verification (DCV) application of the [Measurement Incorporated \(MI\) Web Portal](#). The Grades 3 – 8 Smarter Balanced DTC is equivalent to the CMT DTC and the Smarter Balanced High School DTC is equivalent to the CAPT DTC. Please contact the Measurement Incorporated Connecticut Help Line at 1-866-762-1060 or Connecticut@measinc.com for assistance with the MI Web Portal. If you received this communication and are not the DTC, please forward this newsletter to the appropriate district staff member.

